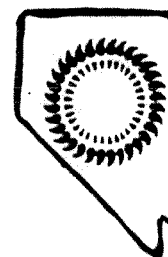


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY



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SYNOPSIS

October was a cool and generally drier than normal month over the Silver State. Temperatures averaged a little below normal in all but the extreme Northeast where they were a little above long-term averages in the Owyhee River Watershed. It was very wet in portions of Mineral and Esmeralda Counties, where up to 3-4 times the normal October precipitation was recorded. Over two times normal occurred in Northern Lincoln County, with a little above normal conditions in much of the Northeast.

The new automatic weather station atop 11,700 foot Bald Mountain on the shoulder of 13,000 foot Wheeler Peak in Great Basin National Park continued to make news as a 146 mph southerly wind gust occurred during pre-frontal conditions on October 4th. This is a record for the State for October and one of the highest recorded for any month. There were several other gusts over 100 mph that day with the one hour average speed from 5-6 P.M. at 86mph!

TEMPERATURE

This was the first cooler than normal month since February. Departures from normal were mainly in the 1-3 degree below normal range Statewide. Reported extremes were -4 degrees at Elko and +2 degrees at Mountain City. The warmest days were early in the month when Amargosa Valley and some areas along the Colorado River and Lake Mead recorded temperatures in the mid-90's - far below the State record 109 degrees recorded at Cottonwood Cove in 1980. At the lower end of the thermometer Charleston had 1 degree above zero at month's end, with 3 at Deeth and 4's at Vya and McDermitt. The State record low for October is -10 set at Mountain City in 1970.

PRECIPITATION

With the exception of the wet areas in the Northeast, West Central and East Central Regions, precipitation averaged below normal. In fact much of Southern Nevada had little or no rainfall this month, with much of Northwest Nevada not much better off, as Sierra Nevada Eastslope Watersheds had generally less than 1/2 normal, adding to local drought woes.

In relation to normal the wettest area in Nevada during October was Fish Lake Valley where Dyer had 4 & 1/2 times the normal with 1.27", and Mina with 1.44 was over 3 & 1/2 times normal. The most precipitation reported this month was 2.47" at Pioche (270% of normal), 2.53" at Jarbidge (140% of normal), and 2.32" at Spring Valley State Park near Pioche. On the dry end of the rain gage stick, several Clark County gages were dry.

SUN, WIND & EVAPORATION

Except in the cloudier Northeast and West Central portions of Nevada sunshine hours were near or above normal, with wind speed averages a little below long-term normals.

Pan evaporation was near normal in the South (e.g. 7.35" at Overton) and below normal in the North (e.g. 2.70" at Ruby Lake, 2.52" at Minden and 2.21" at Orovada).

NOTE: NEVADA WEATHER 10 YEARS AGO - NOVEMBER 1984.

Precipitation was well above normal Statewide, with the only exception being a portion of Nye and Lincoln Counties in Central Nevada. Highest totals were recorded in the mountains around the Reno-Tahoe-Carson City Areas, where Incline had 6.90", Daggett Pass 4.95", Glenbrook 4.37", and Virginia City 3.68". These locations also recorded record November snowfall, as 7900' Daggett Pass had 51", 6500' Incline had 49", 6300' Glenbrook 30" and 6200' Virginia City 15". In the hills Southwest of Reno 5" of snow fell in only 1 & 1/2 hours on November 24th!

Temperaturewise, Reno reached 51 on the 7th and dropped to 7 on the 20th, with 60 at Las Vegas on the 7th and a low of 28 on the 23rd. The state high was 86 at Laughlin on the 4th, with -6 at Manhattan on the 27th for the Nevada low 10 years ago.

John W. James
State Climatologist

PRECIPITATION

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